

What is claimed is:

4. A dumbwaiter comprising:
 - a tower assembly defining a vertical track;
 - 5 a container for receiving and delivering materials, the container slidably coupled to the track for vertical movement of the container between vertically spaced apart positions;
 - a pair of upper sheaves mounted at the top of the tower assembly;
 - a pair of lower sheaves mounted at the bottom of the tower assembly; and
 - 10 a pair of lifting cables each having a first end mounted to the container and extended there from over one of the upper sheaves and extended there from to one of the lower sheaves, a second end of each cable attached to and wound onto the corresponding one of the lower sheaves, the lower sheaves fixedly mounted to a rotatable cylindrical shaft, the cylindrical shaft encasing a drive motor and engaged by the drive motor for
 - 15 selective rotation of the shaft and accordingly the lower sheaves to thereby wind and unwind the lifting cables to selectively raise and lower the container.
5. The dumbwaiter of claim 4, wherein the upper sheaves are rotatably coupled to a sheave mount, the sheave mount pivotally mounted at the top of the tower assembly to
- 20 thereby respond to a change in length of either cable by pivoting to retain a balanced load on each cable.
6. The dumbwaiter of claim 4, wherein at least one cable further comprises a turnbuckle adapted to allow adjustment of the length of the at least one cable such that
- 25 both cables are substantially the same length.
7. The dumbwaiter of claim 4, wherein the drive motor is selected from the SOMFY HiPro LT50 line of motors.

8. The dumbwaiter of claim 4, further comprising a guide bar adjacent to and parallel with the cylindrical shaft and spaced a distance from the lower sheaves, the guide bar adapted to guide the two cables onto or off of the lower sheaves in a preferred direction.

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9. The dumbwaiter of claim 4 wherein the container is of a one-piece construction and adapted to contain a fluid spill.

10. A dumbwaiter for raising and lowering a platform, comprising:

10 a cylindrical shaft encasing a drive motor and engaged by the drive motor for selective rotation of the shaft, the drive motor comprising an asynchronous motor, an electromagnetic disk brake, a planetary gear mechanism and a limit switch;

a tower assembly having a tower upper end, a tower lower end, a left side and a right side, the cylindrical shaft being adjacent the tower lower end;

15 two spaced-apart sheaves coupled to the cylindrical shaft, each of the sheaves in substantially vertical alignment with the left side and the right side;

a pair of cables each having a first end and a second end, each first end coupled to one of the two sheaves;

20 a pulley system mounted above the tower upper end, the pulley system having two spaced-apart pulleys in substantial vertical alignment with the two spaced-apart sheaves, each cable routed through one of the two pulleys;

a platform connection slidably received on the tower, both cable second ends coupled to the platform connection; and

25 a container coupled to the platform connection, the outer shaft casing adapted to rotate in a first direction to unwind the two cables from their corresponding sheaves causing the platform connection to be lowered, and a second direction to wind the two cables onto their corresponding sheaves causing the platform connection to be raised.

11. The dumbwaiter of claim 10, wherein the pulley system is pivotally mounted to
30 thereby respond to a change in length of either cable by pivoting to retain a balanced load on each cable.

12. The dumbwaiter of claim 10, wherein one or both cables further comprise a turnbuckle adapted to allow adjustment of the length of at least one cable such that both cables are substantially the same length.

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13. The dumbwaiter of claim 10, wherein the drive motor is selected from the SOMFY HiPro LT50 line of motors.

14. The dumbwaiter of claim 10, further comprising a guide bar adjacent to and
10 parallel with the cylindrical shaft and spaced a distance from the two sheaves, the guide bar adapted to guide the two cables onto or off of the sheaves in a preferred direction.

15. The dumbwaiter of claim 10, wherein the container is of a one-piece construction and adapted to contain a fluid spill.